

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims * and ADD new claims * in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A communications system used in a network where a plurality of communication nodes are connected, comprising:
 - a digital wrapper unit, which is provided in each of the plurality of communication nodes, transmitting/receiving a digital wrapper frame;
 - a converting unit, which is provided in each of first and second communication nodes among the plurality of communication nodes, performing mutual conversion between data in a predetermined format and a digital wrapper frame; and
 - a network management unit managing states of the plurality of communication nodes, wherein
 - said digital wrapper unit transmits to the second communication node a digital wrapper frame obtained by said converting unit in the first communication node in accordance with an instruction from said network management unit, and
 - said converting unit, which is provided in the second communication node, converts the received digital wrapper frame into the data in the predetermined format, and
 - wherein said network management unit comprises
 - a first storing unit storing topology information that represents a connection relationship among the plurality of communication nodes,
 - a second storing unit storing route information that represents a communication route connecting the first communication node and the second communication node, and
 - a controlling unit giving an instruction to a communication node involved in the communication route based on the topology information and the route information, and wherein a payload of the digital wrapper frame includes a first area and a second area,
- and
- said network management unit manages information for using communication resources

of respective lines between the plurality of communication nodes as first and second paths, and said controlling unit gives to a corresponding communication node an instruction for setting up the communication route by using the first path to transmit data in the first area if a fault is not detected on the network, and gives to a corresponding communication node an instruction for setting up a bypass route by using the second path to transmit data in the second area according to a location where a fault occurs if the fault is detected on the network.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The communications system according to claim 1, further comprising

a route determining unit determining a communication route connecting the first communication node and the second communication node by referencing the topology information and previously stored route information, and writing route information corresponding to the newly determined communication route to said second storing unit.

4. (previously presented) The communications system according to claim 1, wherein:

said network management unit further comprises

a fault detecting unit detecting a location where a fault occurs on the network, and

an updating unit updating the route information stored in said second storing unit according to the location where the fault occurs, which is detected by said fault detecting unit; and

said controlling unit gives an instruction to a corresponding communication node based on the route information updated by said updating unit.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The communications system according to claim 1, wherein:

a line between the plurality of communication nodes is a WDM transmission line; and each of the plurality of communication nodes further comprises a multiplexing unit transmitting digital wrapper frames that store different data in parallel.

10. (original) The communications system according to claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of communication nodes further comprises an equalizing unit equalizing a WDM signal.

11. (original) The communications system according to claim 10, wherein said equalizing unit is a variable optical attenuator attenuating WDM light, and a controlling circuit controlling the variable optical attenuator.

12. (original) The communications system according to claim 10, wherein said equalizing unit is an optical amplifier amplifying WDM light, and a controlling circuit controlling the optical amplifier.

13. (withdrawn) A communication device as one of a plurality of communication devices, which is used in a network where the plurality of communication devices are connected, comprising:

first, second, and third optical splitters respectively splitting optical signals that are respectively received via first, second, and third optical input lines;

a first optical switch selecting one of the optical signals output from said second optical splitter and said third optical splitter, and guiding the selected optical signal to a first optical output line;

a second optical switch selecting one of the optical signals output from said first optical splitter and said third optical splitter, and guiding the selected optical signal to a second optical output line;

a third optical switch selecting one of the optical signals output from said first optical splitter and said second optical splitter, and guiding the selected optical signal to a third optical output line;

a processing unit processing an overhead of a digital wrapper frame that is transmitted via the first optical input line and the first optical output line; and

a controlling unit controlling said first, second and third optical switches in accordance with an instruction for setting up a communication route via the plurality of communication

devices.

14. (withdrawn) The communication device according to claim 13, further comprising:
a unit storing data, which is received via the second or the third optical input line, in a payload of a digital wrapper frame, and guiding the frame to said processing unit; and
a unit extracting data from a payload of a digital wrapper frame terminated by said processing unit, and guiding the data to the second or the third optical output line.

15. (currently amended) A network management device managing a network where a plurality of communication nodes are connected, comprising:

a first storing unit storing topology information that represents a connection relationship among the plurality of communication nodes;

a second storing unit storing route information that represents a communication route connecting first and second communication nodes among the plurality of communication nodes, each of the first and second communication nodes comprising a converting unit performing mutual conversion between data in a predetermined format and a digital wrapper frame; and

a controlling unit giving an instruction for transmitting a digital wrapper frame to a communication node involved in the communication route based on the topology information and the route information, and

wherein a payload of the digital wrapper frame includes a first area and a second area, and

said network management device manages information for using communication resources of respective lines between the plurality of communication nodes as first and second paths, and

said controlling unit gives to a corresponding communication node an instruction for setting up the communication route by using the first path to transmit data in the first area if a fault is not detected on the network, and gives to a corresponding communication node an instruction for setting up a bypass route by using the second path to transmit data in the second area according to a location where a fault occurs if the fault is detected on the network.

16. (original) The network management device according to claim 15, further comprising:

a fault detecting unit detecting a location where a fault occurs on the network; and
an updating unit updating the route information stored in said second storing unit according to the location where the fault occurs, which is detected by said fault detecting unit,

wherein

said controlling unit gives an instruction to a corresponding communication node based on the route information updated by said updating unit.